HOW TO BECOME QUALIFIED TO PARTICIPATE AS AIRCREW IN CAP SAR/DR ACTIVITIES

As it enters the 21st century, CAP is still best known for its search and rescue mission. Civil Air Patrol air and ground teams perform 85% of inland search-and-rescue missions for the Air Force's Air Rescue Coordination Center. More than 100 lives are saved every year by CAP aircrew and ground-team members! CAP's disaster relief missions, such as those during blizzards, hurricanes and floods, often don't make headlines, but CAP provides both air and ground transportation and an extensive communications network. CAP members also fly disaster relief officials to remote locations and support local, state and national disaster relief organizations with manpower and leadership. Many senior members, both pilots and non-pilots, join CAP to participate in search and rescue (SAR) and disaster relief (DR) activities. In order to participate in both "real" and "training" SAR/DR exercises, and to receive specialized aircrew training as mission scanners, operators and mission pilots, members are first required to complete General Emergency Services (GES) requirements. This "how to do it" list is provided to help prospective SAR/DR aircrew members initiate this process.

GES REQUIREMENTS (CAPT 116 & CAPT 117)

1. Log-on to the CAP National e-services webpage. Select the CAP Online Exams link under the CAP utilities listed on the left of the page.

2. Select the "Emergency Services Online Exams" link. You will then need to log-on with your CAPID & select the online exam(s) you need to complete.

CAPT 116 Pt. 1 is the general emergency services questionnaire consisting of 25 questions based on CAPR 60-3 "CAP Emergency Services Training & Operational Missions" and CAPR 173-3 "Payment for CAP Support" Links to download pdfs of both CAPR 60-3 and 173-3 are on the exam page. Both documents can also be downloaded from the "CAP Pubs and Forms" link on the e-service webpage. Additional GES materials can be accessed and/or downloaded from the Emergency Services Curriculum webpage at: http://level2.cap.gov/index.cfm?nodeID=5312

CAP 116 Pt. 2 is the incident command system 100 level questionnaire consisting of 25 additional questions based on CAPR 60-3 and CAPR 173-3.

Completion of both CAPT 116 Pt. I & Pt. 2 is required for all members prior to initial issuance of a CAPF 101 "Speciality Qualification Card". After completing the exams, your scores are entered online and automatically entered into your CAPF 101 card and Emergency Service Achievements. You can download and print a hard copy of your CAPF 101 card from the new MIMS link on the e-services webpage & must have it in your possession along with your CAP membership card when participating in actual SAR/DR or training exercises such as SARCAPs.

CAPT 117 consists of 3 parts, each comprised of 10 questions, and is based on online text provided with each exam.

Part 1 is required for all ground team members, ground team leaders, urban direction finding team members, and critical incident stress team qualified individuals.

Part 2 is required for all SAR/DR mission pilots, transport mission pilots, mission scanners, mission observers, flightline marshallers and flightline supervisors.

Part 3 is required for all incident commanders, agency liaisons, planning sectional chiefs, logistics section chiefs, finance/administration section chiefs, air operations branch directors, ground branch directors, information officers, communications unit leaders, mission radio operators, mission safety officers, liason officers, mission chaplains and mission staff assistants.

Since the material is highly informative, and each part consists of only 10 questions, members are strongly encouraged to complete all 3 parts of the exam so that they can participate and/or receive additional training in all SAR/DR capacities.

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU'RE NOW GES QUALIFIED

Individuals who have completed CAPT 116 & 117 can initiate training for various SAR/DR aircrew specializations. Information on all emergency service specialties, training resources and specific requirements can be accessed and downloaded at: http://level2.cap.gov/index.cfm?nodeID=5312. The first step in this process is to become qualified as a Mission Scanner (MS). A link to download pdfs of individual Speciality Qualification Training Records (SQTRs) for each specialization is provided on this page. SQTRs indicate specific tasks and proficiencies that are required in order to achieve specialization. All Members should note that certain aircrew specialties (e.g., SAR/DR mission pilot or Transport Mission Pilot) have FAA prerequisites and/or requirements (e.g., minimal hours as PIC) in addition to those indicated by CAP. Members will also note that each SQTR contains a list of familiarization and preparatory (F&P) tasks that must be satisfactorily completed before advanced training, including actual airwork can be initiated. This includes participation in SARCAPs and Air Force-funded training exercises at the squadron level. Prospective aircrew members should download the "Aircrew and Flightline Personnel Task Guide" available online at: http://level2.cap.gov/index.cfm?nodeID=5591 This document is an excellent resource that also contains extensive training information pertinent to each task and mission specialization. This website also contains extensive training resources for all prospective aircrew and flightline specializations. A brief summary of prerequisites to initiate Mission Scanner, Observer & Pilot training is below:

Mission Scanner   At Least 18 Years of Age & GES Qualified

Mission Observer   At least 18 Years of Age & MS Qualified

Mission Pilot   At least 18 Years of Age & MS Qualified, Current & Qualified
                CAP Pilot (as per CAPR 60-1), 175 hrs PIC time, incl. 50 hrs XC.